



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR

SEPTEMBER 2017

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UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Castle Rock Trail Festival**
 - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7; Philip S. Miller Park
- **Free Concert featuring John Adams, the Tribute to John Denver**
 - 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 7; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Castle of Terror, Castle Rock's most frightening haunted house!**
 - 7-10 p.m. Oct. 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; Fire Training Center, 303 Malibu St.
- **Spooktacular**
 - 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; the Miller Activity Complex
- **Harvest Festival**
 - 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; the Amphitheater and Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Pie Bake Off**
 - 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4; the Amphitheater and Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park



PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Festival Park

With Starlighting around the corner, construction crews continue to work hard to complete the Festival Park Project. September was another productive month as the natural stone splash pad wall was completed. This finishing touch is sure to be a memorable feature with water pouring down it in the summer months! Several portions of sidewalk and trail have been placed, while the main entrance off Wilcox is beginning to take shape with new sign supports being formed. The bathroom has been placed and several underground irrigation and electrical components are making their way in effort to control sprinklers and lights. The underground gas has been installed for the fire pit, which will be placed in October. Additionally, several planters have been placed in the ground in preparation for trees,





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which will be planted in October. The soil on the south side of the gulch has been tilled and is ready for shrubs.

Operations and Maintenance Facility

Coordination and design efforts between the Town's Park Maintenance and Facilities divisions took place for the new Operations and Maintenance Facility. The facility, planned to host both of the divisions in 2018, will be located at the end of Caprice Drive. Work on drawings continued in September, with submission anticipated in October. Construction is slated to commence in the first quarter of 2018.

TRAIL PROJECTS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

East Plum Creek Trail

The southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail is a planned 2-mile trail beginning at its current ending, located at South Perry Street. It will continue south to Crystal Valley Parkway. This project will complete the Town's southern portion of the trail. The Lanterns development will construct the final link to the Town's southern limits, where it will tie into Douglas County's planned trail system.

As with past trail projects, both Castle Rock Water and Parks and Recreation have joined efforts to complete both trail and stormwater improvements located in the Heckendorf Ranch neighborhood along the Douglas Lane Tributary. Trail improvements will include the Union Pacific Railroad underpass at the project's westerly limit as well as retaining walls and trail construction to Crystal Valley Parkway.

In September, the Town successfully completed the purchase of two sections of private property that are needed to complete the trail, allowing the Town to move forward on the trail project and begin construction in 2018.

Town staff and the design consultant, RESPEC, continue to refine construction plans for the project. Plans are expected to be ready for review in November.

Castlewood Ranch Neighborhood Connection

The Castlewood Ranch Metro District contacted the Town to request a neighborhood connection from Mitchell Street to both Peabody and Ardmore streets through an existing open space tract. The open space is currently used by Mesa Middle School students traveling to and from school. The completed project will provide improved access for the local neighborhood and a safer commute for students.

In a joint effort, the Town will bid the project for construction, prepare construction plans for the project, submit plans for review to Public Works and Castle Rock Water and provide project management. The District will provide project funding.

The District awarded contractor, SaBell's Enterprises, began construction of the neighborhood connection on September 11. Since that time, GESC items were installed, final grading was completed and 300 linear feet of trail was placed. The project is expected to wrap up in October, weather permitting.



Trail Concrete Repair and Replacement

To track necessary maintenance, park staff continuously identify, photograph, map and calculate damaged concrete sections throughout the Town's park and open space sites. In 2016, sections were repaired in Founders and Butterfield parks and at Memmen Ridge Open Space. In 2017, concrete repairs will be completed along portions of the East Plum Creek Trail and at Native Legend and Woodlands Bowl open spaces.

Favorable weather allowed the awarded contractor, SaBell's Enterprises, to remove and replace 150 square yards of concrete trail, remove six chase drains and install one new chase drain along the East Plum Creek Trail.



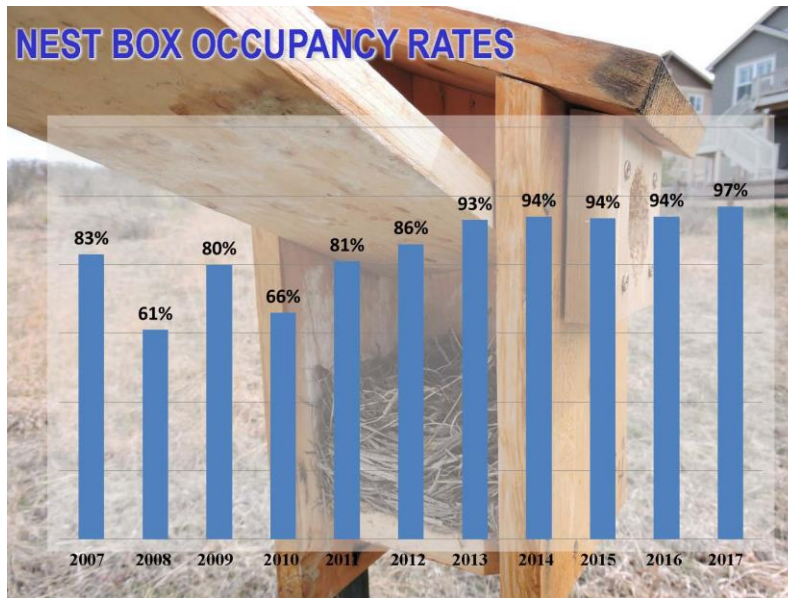
OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Colorado Bluebird Project

The bluebird breeding data that had been collected by students and volunteers between April and August of this year was reviewed, evaluated and added to the national breeding bird database maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Of the 188 boxes that were monitored this season, there were 244 total nesting attempts (indicates

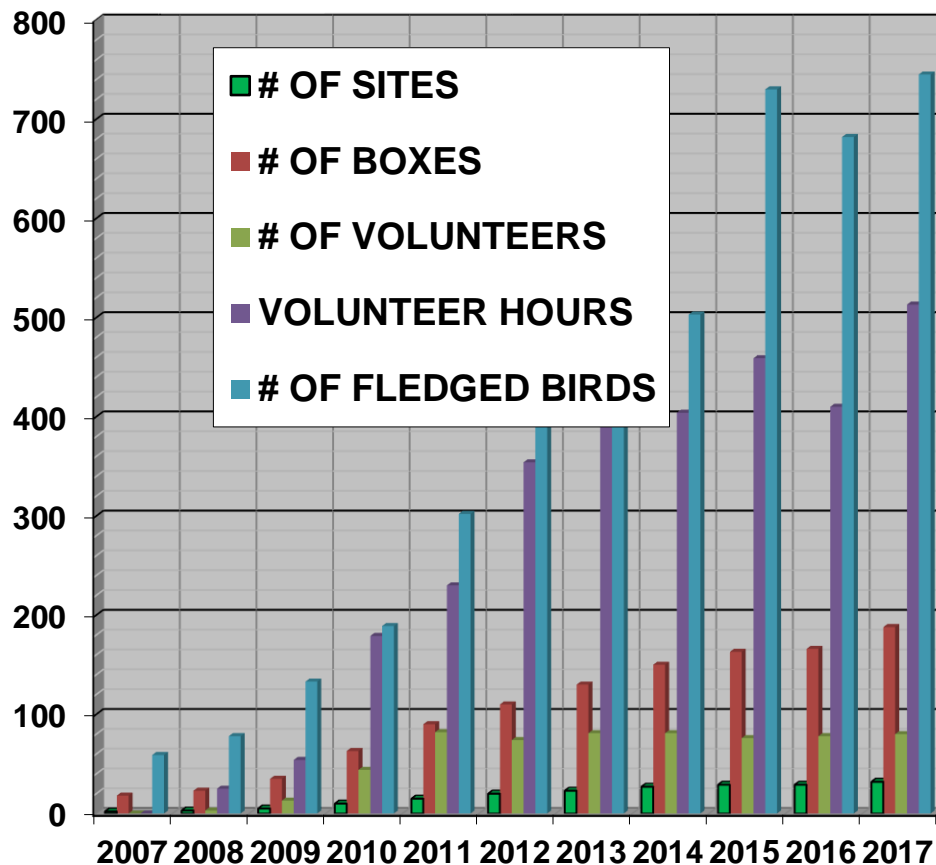
double clutches of eggs in the same box), 1,103 total eggs laid and 843 total chicks hatched, with only 745 total fledglings successfully leaving the boxes. The total number of fledglings, 745, reflect failures due to nest predation or the multiple late spring snowstorms, including the 2-day snowstorm on May 17 and May 18. The charts below illustrate overall project data.



Other highlights from the 2017 season include:

- This summer marked the 11th year of consecutive monitoring data collection in Castle Rock!
- 80 volunteers (and hundreds of students from six different schools) monitored 188 boxes at 32 different sites that included open space areas, parks, trails, schools, one church and one cemetery site around Castle Rock.
- Four different species used our nest boxes in 2017: Mountain Bluebird (MOBL), Western Bluebird (WEBL), Tree Swallow (TRSW), and (for the first time) Mountain Chickadee (MOCH).
- Nest box occupancy rate was 97 percent. Only five boxes out of 188 had absolutely no activity, not even a nest claim. We do count boxes with incomplete nests as occupied, as that is evidence of either bluebird or swallow nesting activity at some point in the season.

Once again, staff hosted a year-end appreciation potluck reception to thank volunteers for their 513 hours spent maintaining and monitoring of the boxes, as well as data entry of the hundreds of nest site visits. A wrap-up slideshow summary presentation of the 2017 season is available in its entirety at www.CRgov.com/bluebird (scroll down to the section on the 2017 Season wrap-up and click on the link to 'view Barbara's presentation').



A few quotes provided by bluebird volunteers this year:

- "It was fun to monitor the bluebird houses this summer, great to be volunteering outside!" – Cheryl Brunger
- "Thanks, this has been such a fun activity and we cannot wait until next year!" – Laura Pionek
- "Thanks again for the great project. It is one of our favorites to be a part of!" – Lisa Zegers

Animals of Pokémon

This was the second of three events this year highlighting the partnership between the Town and Douglas Land Conservancy, a local non-profit land trust organization. Nature's Educator's, a local non-profit educational wildlife organization, returned to the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park to teach about real-life animals that are the basis for characters in the popular video game, Pokémon. Children were encouraged to sit close to see the wild animals, then everyone had a chance to meet the various event ambassadors, such as a peregrine falcon, bull snake and tiger salamander. Children were



also treated to a mini-photo booth where they could wear masks to look like some of their favorite Pokémon characters.

Public Lands Day

In another partnership with Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC), the Town celebrated National Public Lands Day at Woodlands Bowl Open Space on September 30. Public Lands Day is a nation-wide event created to promote both enjoyment and volunteer conservation of our public lands. Woodlands Bowl Open Space was chosen as the location for this event to highlight the value of the area as public open space land that



is permanently protected through two Conservation Easements held by DLC. The day kicked off with the unveiling and installation of a new interpretive sign at the site's entrance that details the conservation history of the site. Participants then enjoyed a guided nature-preserve hike along the scenic paved trail while learning about the terrain, wildlife habitat and history of the area. The group stopped along the way to help unveil two additional interpretive signs that outline the habitat and wildlife found on the property.



POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Keepers of the Rock

Dennis Carnahan and Carl Pansini lead 23 Teen Court volunteers in conducting 400 feet of step and tread preventative maintenance along the West Summit Trail.



King Soopers Cultural Council

As part of their recent adoption of Philip S. Miller Park, five members of the King Soopers Cultural Council spent an hour collecting trash around the park.



The Ridgeline Wranglers

Seven volunteers cleaned water diversions that had filled with sediment and cut back vegetation along the way, starting at the trailhead and walking the Wolfenberger Loop. Next, they crossed over the Wolfenberger pedestrian bridge to work on a portion of the Orange Loop.

Sedalia Elementary School

In celebration of receiving the 2017 U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon



award, 140 first through fourth grade students cleaned up trash along the East Plum



Creek Trail from the middle school trail entrance all the way to the 8th Street and Kinner Street spur. Eight bags of trash were collected in an hour and a half! The award acknowledges the school's commitment to sustainable practices.

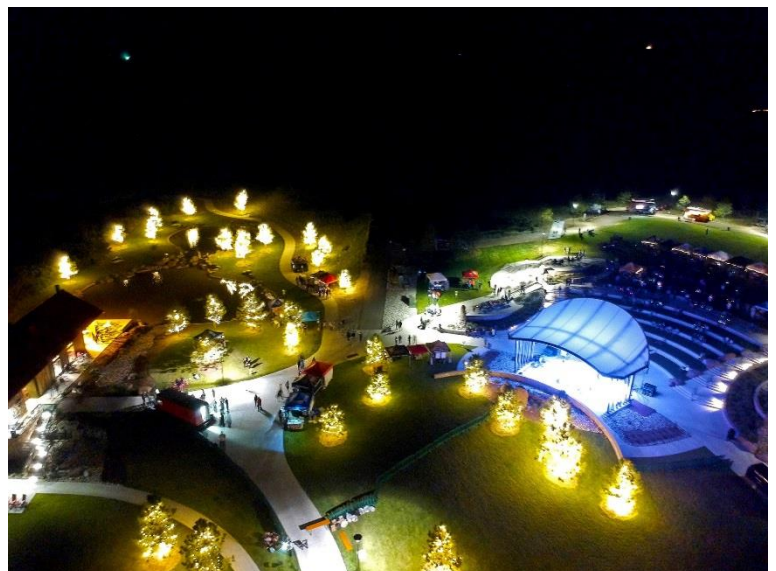
Castle of Terror: Freak Show

Staff also assisted the Fire and Police Explorer programs in planning this year's Castle of Terror. The theme this year is Freak Show. The volunteer opportunity was posted to VolunteerConnectDC.org. This year's show will require 50 volunteers per night for each of the five performances.

Special Programs and Events

PREPARED BY HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR, AND JENNIFER REINHARDT, EVENTS SPECIALIST

The inaugural Castle Rock Brew Fest Under the Stars was held at the Millhouse and Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park on September 8. The Millhouse proved a wonderful setting for an evening out, letting visitors taste award winning local craft brews and delicious local food. The ticket price included samplings from multiple Colorado craft breweries, hors d'oeuvres from local chefs and live music. Best of all, guests enjoyed the experience under the stars, mingling around the beautiful pond or cozing



up to the crackling fire at the Millhouse. With over 700 people in attendance, the event was a huge success.

The 2017 Summer Concert Series wrapped up in September with two memorable performances. Grammy nominated artist Matt Maher hit the Amphitheater stage on Labor Day weekend with over 700 fans in attendance. Then on September 22, the Academy of Country Music nominated Duo of the Year Halfway to Hazard braved the rain and cold and wrapped up a summer of music in Castle Rock.



With over 5,000 tickets sold, attendance at the 2017 Summer Concert Series more than doubled from its inaugural year, which attests to love for live music and entertainment in the Castle Rock area.

Toddler, Youth and Teen

PREPARED BY MINDY FORTIN, YOUTH SPECIALIST AND GINA ORDUNEZ, TEEN ADVISORY GROUP COORDINATOR

Back to School night was held on August 30 and 31 for Adventure Club Preschool. Students were invited to come with their families in pajamas for story time, milk and cookies and to meet their new teachers. There was a strong turnout with approximately 225 parents and children attending. Preschool classes started September 5. Three preschool classes are full this year and a fourth will open on October 3. Pre-kindergarten classes started strong this year as well, with a few openings in both morning and afternoon classes. Adventure Club Preschool enrollment is ongoing for morning and afternoon classes, until capacity is reached.



Cooking classes have become one of the most popular programs. Anyone Can Cook and Little Chefs ran at full capacity in September. The month's theme was fall bunch, with classes making pumpkin pancakes topped with sautéed fresh apples with cinnamon and whip cream. To balance the menu each class did a different egg dish with veggies in them. Lastly, they made fall fresh fruit smoothies which quickly became the class favorite. The children gave their parents a tasting plate and recipes of all the items made in class. Overall, youth enrichment class participation increased 27 percent over September 2016.

Cultural Arts

PREPARED BY DAVID QUINTANA, SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATOR

Adult Pottery and Spanish I classes are now operating at maximum capacity. A new sign language class was also introduced and has been met with enthusiasm, as demonstrated by enrollment numbers.

The second annual Zumba Glow adaptive recreation fundraiser held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park was remarkably successful with an 82 percent increase in participation. This year's event featured 251 paid participants, as well as over 30 Zumba instructors, and nearly 30 children under the age of 12. The 2017 event raised over \$2,500 with participants from as far away as Thornton, Aurora, Denver and Colorado Springs supporting REAL, the Town's adaptive recreation program.



Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS / WELLNESS SUPERVISOR

September 2017 group fitness saw a 31 percent increase in class offerings over September of 2016, with an increase of nearly 600 participants during that same timeframe.

September Group Fitness	Total Attendance	Total #of classes offered	Average cost for class	Average cost per participant
2016	5222	347	\$17.13	\$1.14
2017	5814	453	\$15.84	\$1.23

Several brand new class formats were added to the schedule for September, including:

- **Restorative Yoga:** This class guides participants through yoga postures in a gentle and supported manner, and is suitable for all body types and fitness levels. The classes are designed to de-stress the mind and body while guiding students toward increased body awareness, breath control and proper pose alignment. The class invites students to take a break from life and come experience the “active relaxation” of this gentle restorative yoga.
- **Strong by Zumba:** This is a high intensity interval training class using traditional fitness moves for a more athletic, conditioning-style workout. Participants use their body weight as resistance to achieve muscle definition.
- **Total Body Fit:** This high intensity class combines intervals of both cardio and strength segments to increase heart rates and body torching calories. This is a fun, full-body workout designed to improve overall fitness: strength, cardio, flexibility, agility and endurance!



Thirty-minute personal training session sales saw an increase of 40 percent in September 2017 over September 2016. During the same timeframe, individual one hour personal training sessions decreased by 18 percent.